

UTILITY NEWS

Providing safe, reliable, and cost effective electrical, natural gas, water, and wastewater services to the Fremont area

CITY OF
FREMONT
NEBRASKA PATHFINDERS

DECEMBER 2016

Give the Gift of Comfort

Need a gift idea for that person who is hard to buy for? Gift cards are available year-round at the Fremont Department of Utilities office. Energy gift certificates can be used for special occasions or simply to provide assistance to someone in need.

You can also help by giving the gift that keeps giving year-round. Add a dollar or more to your Utility bill each month or make a one-time donation to Care & Share. It's a "hand-up" as Care & Share recipients participate in programs that help them learn to manage their household budget. Several organizations in Fremont have joined together to provide more than just financial assistance.

Care & Share recipients learn budgeting skills as they develop a personal financial success plan. It includes specific actions to get them out of their current situation and to meet their future basic needs, such as paying monthly utility bills.

If every utility customer made a small contribution, such as a \$1 with their monthly bill, most of the emergency needs of our Fremont community could be met. Many of us have loose change amounting to more than that. Both one time and monthly payments are gratefully accepted. Let's make Fremont an even better community. Give to Care & Share!



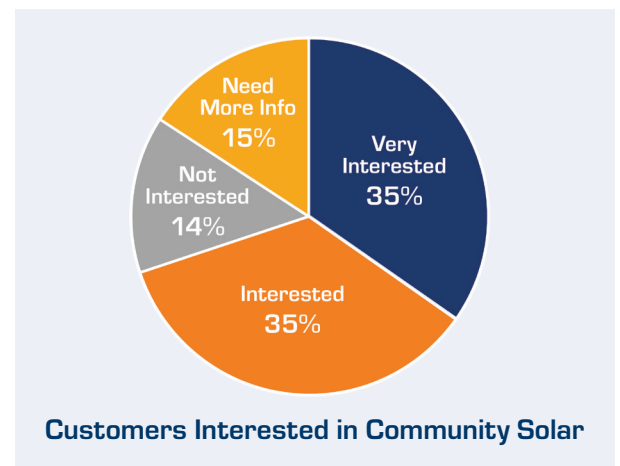
Solar Survey Results... Come learn more

Results from the community solar survey have been compiled with a large majority of customers expressing interest in a community solar project in Fremont. Customers also expressed the need for more information. Community solar is complicated.

Fremont customers are encouraged to participate in public meetings the end of January. More information will be presented at the 2017 Home Show the weekend of January 27, 28, and 29. Also watch for an insert with your January utility bill so you can learn more about Fremont's solar farm and how you can participate.

The following highlights the survey results:

- When asked what is most appealing about community solar, three messages stood out.
 - 1) It reduces dependence on fossil fuel (61%).
 - 2) It is good for the environment (57%).
 - 3) There are potential financial benefits (52%).
- One-third of respondents preferred a monthly payment structure rather than a lump sum, and 94% said they would pay a monthly premium of \$5 per month to participate in community solar.
- One-third of customers said nothing would discourage them from participating in solar.



Since utility customers are sensitive to the cost of solar energy, Fremont will need to build a community solar farm big enough to capture summer efficiencies to help keep costs low.

Please stay tuned for more updates as we move community solar forward in Fremont.

Review Natural Gas Safety

Natural gas has an excellent safety record, but it still is possible to have a natural gas leak. It has no odor so a strong rotten egg smell is added before it is put into service. Natural gas is highly flammable, which is why we talk about natural gas safety several times a year. Please review the following safety precautions with people in your household.



If you smell gas inside your home...

- Do not turn electrical switches on or off.
- Do not ring doorbells or use a telephone.
- Extinguish all open flames and do not smoke.
- Evacuate and warn others to stay away.
- Call 911 or 402.727.2613. A trained, dedicated team of Department of Utilities employees are available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day, to respond in emergency situations.

DECEMBER SAFETY TIP: CARBON MONOXIDE – THE INVISIBLE KILLER

Install and test carbon monoxide detectors especially near sleeping areas. Don't let this "silent killer" attack you while you sleep!

"Dollar and Energy Savings Loans" Offered

Do you need to replace your HVAC system, appliances, or windows in your home? The Nebraska Energy Office offers "Dollar & Energy Savings Loans" through lending partners. Most Nebraska banks, savings institutions, and credit unions offer loans with low interest rates ranging from 2.5% to 5% for energy efficiency appliances and equipment. Loans also are available for many types of residential and commercial building improvements that reduce the use of energy. Loan terms range from five years for appliances and up to 15 years for larger building improvements.

Detailed information is available at the Nebraska Energy Office's website <http://www.neo.ne.gov>. You will also find a link to the Nebraska Energy Office on the City's website. Energy tips and calculators also are available on the City's website.



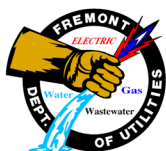
HOW TO IDENTIFY UTILITY EMPLOYEES

Guard against telephone and door-to-door scams. Do not give personal financial information to strangers as Utility payments cannot be made over the telephone. Personnel do not accept payments when working in neighborhoods. If someone identifies themselves as a Utility employee, ask to see a City-issued photo identification (ID). Look for marked Utility vehicles if Utility personnel are working in your neighborhood. Assume they may not work for the Fremont Utility if they cannot provide an ID or the photo doesn't match the person at your door. Payment options can be accessed at <http://www.fremontne.gov/>.

HOW DO I LEARN MORE ABOUT MY UTILITY?

Want to learn more about your Department of Utilities? How will environmental regulations impact your electric rates? We offer free presentations and limited tours of Utility facilities to businesses, organizations, and schools (Seventh Grade & above).

For more information, contact Jan Rise at 402.727.2600 during regular business hours.



City of Fremont
Department of Utilities

400 E. Military Avenue, Fremont, NE 68025
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Phone: 402.727.2600
Website: <http://www.fremontne.gov>

